

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## SCORES PERISH IN THEATRE DISASTER; MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

### DOZENS BURNED BUT MORE ARE TRAMPLED AND CRUSHED TO DEATH

#### PANIC RAISES DEATH LOSS

WOMEN AND CHILDREN TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

Lamp Explodes on Stage and Burning Oil Engulfed Audience—Sunday School Entertainment Was in Progress—Accident in Small Town and Nearly Every Family is in Mourning—Fire Department Unable to Assist.

Boyerstown, Pa., Jan. 14.—One of the most terrible theater disasters in the history of the state occurred here last evening. The theater was the scene of an entertainment given by the St. John's Lutheran Sunday school and was crowded with men, women and children. Fully 700 people were in the house at the time the fire was discovered. The building is lighted with oil lamps and as soon as the first one exploded the others did also and in a few moments the entire structure was ablaze. It is thought that the first explosion was that of

a gasoline lamp upon the stage. The fire there soon communicated with the rest of the building and the panic ensued.

Fully 150 people, the majority being women and children, are dead, and it is believed that death will claim many of the injured. Many were killed by the crush of the panic. Many who had they not been held back by the crowd at the doors, would have been able to escape from the building, but were forced to remain and were cremated.

It was a repetition of the Iroquois disaster in Chicago. Instantly following the first rush to the door the exit became clogged. The wall of struggling forms blocked the doorway and many were forced to the floor and trampled under foot. As the panic increased the heap grew, amid piteous shrieks and cries of the dying. While this scene of death and terror was being enacted in the front, members of the amateur company who were on the program in "Mary, Queen of Scots," fled out the rear door in safety. Panic-stricken players left the rear door open and the draught created caused the roaring fire which ate up the rear of the maddened mob of spectators, engulfing them in flames. Mrs. Stella Mayes, who presented the play, could have saved her life, but sacrificed it in saving the lives of her company. She reached the open air in safety but returned to see that all had escaped, and was burned to death.

Boyerstown is a place of about 2,500 people, and today almost every

house in the city is either a temporary hospital or an improvised morgue. To make matters worse, if possible, just as the fire department arrived on the scene, the water supply gave out and the department was absolutely powerless to render any special assistance.

#### WANTS NO INTERFERENCE.

Objects to Having Salary Warrants Disallowed.

Boise, Idaho, Jan. 14.—State Auditor Bragaw filed in the supreme court today, a petition for writ of prohibition preventing Governor Gooding and other state officials from interfering with his administration of his office. The contest originates over Bragaw's refusal to issue a deficiency warrant in the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone cases, and the ensuing refusal of examiners to endorse the salary warrants of Bragaw's wife and son, who are employed in his office. Bragaw has a \$50,000 libel suit against Governor Gooding and the Boise Statesman, at present.

#### FOUND SOLVENT.

Bank Closed During Flurry, But Will Reopen.

New York, Jan. 14.—The Hamilton bank has been found solvent and it will open January 20 with \$1,800,000 on hand. The bank suspended during the recent flurry.

#### THAW IS NOT WELL PLEASED

EVELYN NOT ALLOWED IN COURT ROOM.

Littleton Will Uncover Thaw's Past as it Was Never Done Before—Will Show That He Was a "Wild-Eyed and Distant Boy"—Thaw Objects to Such a Plain Showing.

New York, Jan. 14.—The Thaw case opened this morning in the hands of the defense. Dr. John R. T. Demar, who has been the Thaw family physician for many years, was the first witness called by Attorney Littleton. Through Demar Littleton expects to prove that as a child and a boy Thaw was a "wild-eyed, distant boy," erratic and unreliable. From this point he will take up each period of the young man's life and trace its uncertain windings, laying bare much that was hidden by Delmas in the first battle and exposing to the world much that Thaw had hoped to keep forever buried.

When Thaw entered the court room he looked more depressed than usual. He does not like the ruthless display of his deficiencies.

Evelyn was excluded from the court room this morning with other witnesses.

Dr. Demar was questioned by Littleton. The witness said that when Thaw was a child he was nervous and a victim of St. Vitus dance. He declared that a brother of Mrs. Thaw was an imbecile six years before his death. Jerome objected when Littleton started to go into the condition of John Ross, son of Mrs. Thaw's sister, and this line of examination was closed.

Jerome cross-questioned Demar closely, but failed to bring out anything of value. Dr. William F. Butler, of Roanoke, Va., was the next witness. He testified to the condition of Horace Thaw, son of the first Mrs. William Thaw, while he was at the state hospital for the insane. Jerome fought the introduction of this evidence but lost his battle and Butler testified that Horace Thaw was mentally incompetent.

#### HENEY WILL NOT ANSWER

WHEN QUESTIONED BY REPORTER, SAYS NOTHING.

Ruef Seems to Have Upper Hand, and Refuses to Recede From Vantage Point—Will Not Testify Unless He is Given Absolute Immunity—Heny Does Not Like Turn of Affairs.

Portland, Jan. 14.—Abraham Ruef and Francis J. Heney are dominant factors in the San Francisco graft situation again as a result of yesterday's conference between Ruef and Langdon in relation to Ruef's testimony and his demand for immunity.

This morning's San Francisco Call, the supposed organ of the prosecution declares in unqualified terms that Ruef will get immunity if Heney agrees to Ruef's terms. Ruef fought his battle for freedom yesterday in Langdon's office in San Francisco. Burns, Dwyer and Langdon represented the prosecution. Ruef, it is declared, was adamant. He would testify if he was granted complete im-

munity. He would not, unless he was. He realized that he had the probable success or failure of the prosecution in his hands and pressed his point. Apparently he won. Heney, however, this morning refused to state what action he will take in regard to Ruef. As he entered Judge Hunt's court room this morning prior to the calling of the Hall trial, he was shown a United Press dispatch relating to Abe Ruef's demand for absolute immunity. He scowled as he read it.

"I will say nothing," he declared shortly, "nothing at all." Heney has no friendship for Ruef. He has frequently stated that he would send Ruef to jail before all others, and it will pique him to relent in this instance.

#### LANGDON IS WORRIED

JUDGE FLATLY REFUSES TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT.

Now the Question is, Without Absolute Guarantee From the Court That He Will Be Granted Immunity, Will Ruef Go on the Witness Stand and Tell What He Knows About the Gift?—He is an Important Witness.

San Francisco, Jan. 14.—After a long and stormy conference this morning Judge Dunne, before whom Ruef pleaded guilty and in whose court a large number of the indictments against Ruef are to be tried, flatly declared to District Attorney Langdon that he would not enter into any agreement by which Ruef could gain immunity and informed the district attorney that any motion or agreement in relation to the Ruef indictments must come before him in open court.

What the result of this ruling by the court will be remains to be seen. It is a well known fact that the prosecution is loath to proceed with the graft cases unless they can secure Ruef's testimony and whether or not the state can get him to tell all he knows without an absolute promise of immunity. It was for this reason that the district attorney persisted that he could go to Ruef with the assurance from Judge Dunne that he could be able to deliver the goods when the time came.

Birth Record.  
Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Allen, in this city Tuesday, January 14, a daughter.

#### STILL AFTER THE JAPANESE

VANCOUVER ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT WILL NOT DOWN.

City Council Will Attempt to Disarm the Little Brown Men—An Effort Being Made to Disarm All Foreigners Who Attempt to Enter the Dominion of Canada.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 14.—The Japanese question will not down in British Columbia and constant agitation is being kept up against the brown men. At last night's meeting of the city council a motion was made to secure the opinion of the city solicitor in relation to the legality of the resolution disarming the Japanese. Following this meeting the Asiatic Exclusion league held a meeting at which the treasurer, after a stormy session, resigned, because the league was not taking as aggressive a stand against the Japanese as he thought they should.

A special to the News-Advertiser from Ottawa, states that the representative in the Dominion parliament is taking steps to have the immigration act amended so that all people entering the country shall be searched and deprived of firearms.

#### NARROW ESCAPE.

Hotel Imperial Came Near Being Destroyed by Fire.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 14.—The Hotel Imperial underwent a narrow escape from fire late yesterday, when flames crept up between the walls. The fire was not discovered until after the fire had been burning some time. The hotel force cut a hole in the wall and applied extinguishers and saved the building.

Had the fire progressed a few moments more it would have had such a start that the entire building would have been threatened and perhaps destroyed.

#### CHOLERA AT MANILA.

So Far Only Natives Have Succumbed to the Disease.

Manila, Jan. 14.—Forty-three have died in this city in four days, as a result of cholera in Marikina valley, the source of Manila's water supply. Fatalities were confined to natives, so far.

## Another Week of Matchless Bargain Opportunities

We have Decided to Continue our January Sale for another week and will give you six full days more of the greatest Dollar Saving Opportunity you have ever enjoyed.

### UNDERWEAR GREATLY UNDERPRICED FOR THIS WEEK

\$1.25 Mens Ribbed Wool Underwear in Natural Grey, this week	73c	Boys, Misses and Childrens odd Wool Garments worth up to \$1.00, this week	29c
\$2.50 Australian Lambs Wool, this week	\$1.38	75c Ladies Heavy Ribbed Fleece lined Underwear	43c
\$2.00 values, in Tan Ribbed Medium Weight Wool, this week	\$1.29	\$1.00 Ladies Union Suits, Fleece lined	78c
75c values Heavy Wool Fleece, this week	52c	\$1.75 values in Ladies fine ribbed All Wool Underwear, this week	\$1.38
\$1.25 Heavy All Wool Men's Flat Knit Underwear	69c	\$2.50 values in White ribbed All Wool Underwear	\$1.97
\$2.50 Mens fine Ribbed Worsted Underwear, this week	\$1.77	Childrens Heavy Fleece lined ribbed Underwear, regular price 25c to 50c, this week 19c to	33c
50c Heavy Fleece this week	38c		

## WE SINCERELY THANK

Our many customers for the liberal patronage bestowed upon us, which has enabled us to make this the foremost drug store in this section of the country. All can rest assured that our gratitude will be further shown by giving the most scrupulous care and conscientious attention to every detail of our business.

### IF YOU

Are not yet one of our customers let this be your invitation to become one. Get the habit of coming here with your prescriptions and for your drug wants; you will never care to change

## HILL'S DRUG STORE

La Grande Oregon

TELEPHONE  
Pacific States  
BLACK 1301

The Fair  
DEPARTMENT STORE  
LA GRANDE, OREGON

TELEPHONE  
Independent  
BLUE 32